



#7
88
10/12/02

PATENT
2339-0111P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: William Christopher DUFFY Conf.: 6116
Appl. No.: 09/874,327 Group: 3634
Filed: June 6, 2001 Examiner: Jerry E. Redman
For: FIRE RESISTANT ACCESS PANEL FOR DUCTS AND AIR
HANDLING EQUIPMENT

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

October 8, 2002

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated August 8, 2002, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2002

GROUP 3600

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 19-21, drawn to a method of installing an access panel, classified in class 49, subclass 506; and

Group II, claims 1-18, drawn to an access panel, classified in class 49, subclass 466.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 1-18.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

MKM/CJB:cb
2339-0111P